THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Simplification of procedures and system of operation of Customs Department for dealing with passengers and their baggage is a continuous process for which guidelines and instructions are issued by the Government whenever need arises.

(b) to (d) Assessment and clearance of baggage of passengers at the airports is done by Air Customs Officers on the spot. In case of doubt, approval of the Assistant Collector on duty is taken by these officers. Only in rare cases (such as import of non-baggage/industrial goods) assistance of appraisers is taken for assessment of the value of the goods. Only such goods are detained for assessment by the appraisers at a later point of time.

(e) The routine examination of passengers baggage has been done away with so that passengers who do not have dutiable goods can walk through the green channel. Such passengers are intercepted only on prior intelligence or grave suspicion. In case of passengers opting for red channel also, oral declaration is normally being accepted and the baggage is X-Rayed only in cases of grave suspicion. Customs officers have been told to be polite and prompt in clearance of passengers. Separate counters have been opened to facilitate clearance of senior citizens, women, children, handicapped persons, non-resident Indians, and passengers importing gold and silver.

Mechanism to Enforce Post-Issue Governance

1443. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chambers of Commerce and Industry has mooted a mechanism to be introduced in the capital market to enforce post-issue governance to ensure long term health of the capital market;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regards; and

(c) Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Hauling of Heroin

1444. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a big-haul of Heroin worth Rs. 60 crores in the International market was made from a truck at Delhi border on 6th October, 1993;

(b) if so, the details of the catch; and

(c) whether any gang operating the racket was nabbed, if so, the details of the persons apprehended and their modus operandi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir. No precise valuation of narcotic drugs, which are often of indeterminate chemical strength and composition, and are liable for destruction, is feasible.

(b) Officer of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, New Delhi effected a seizure of 62.370 Kgs. of heroin (gross weight). On 6-10-1993, at the outskirts of Delhi from a truck 3 persons were apprehended.

(c) The particulars of the persons apprehended so far are:

(i) Raj Kumar Mehta, Indian
S/o Shri Balwant Rai Mehta,
R/o 70, Harsh Vihar,
Pitam Pura, New Delhi. Aged-57 yrs.

(ii) Sumar Khan, Indian
S/o Habib Khan,
R/o Village-Kunjlari, Distt. Jaiselmer, Rajasthan. Aged-23 yrs.

(iii) Ravinder Mehta, Indian
S/o Shri Chaman Lal Mehta
R/o A-85, Ashok Vihar, Phase-I, Delhi-52. Aged-23yrs.

(iv) One Sher Khan, who was apprehended at Jaiselmer in this case managd to escape while being escorted to Jodhpur.

Pending Refund Cases of Income-tax

1445. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Direct Taxes has issued instructions to all its field officers to clear all pending refund cases within 10 days of the completion of income tax assessment;

(b) whether it is also a fact that CBDT has also asked its officer to grant an appeal to a taxpayer within 15 days;

(c) what are the details; of the instructions issued by CBDT in his regard:

(d) the number of refund and appeal cases pending with the income-tax assessing/appellant authorities; and

(e) by when CBDT propose to dispose of pending refund cases/appeals filed upto 30th September, 1993?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) The Central Board of Direct Taxes have issued instructions to the effect that all refunds should be issued within 10 days of completion of assessments and appeal-effects should be given within 15 days of receipt of the appellate orders;

(d) as on 31-3-93, 8285 direct refund claims u/s 237 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 were pending with the assessing officers. Also about 2.73 lakhs appeals were pending with Deputy Commissioners (Appeals) and Commissioners of Income-tax (Appeals) as on 31-5-93 and about 2.38 lakhs appeals with the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal as on 31-3-93;

(e) the refunds arising as a result of assessments are expected to be issued within 10 days of completion of assessments and the assessments as such are to be completed.

Pending Insurance Claims of Kashmiri

1446. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that insurance claims worth 32 crores including those made by the Kashmiri pandit migrants relating to loss of private property due to extreme desperadations are pending with insurance companies of GIC at Srinagar;

(b) if so, what is the number and details of claims filed with each Insurance Company up to 30th November, 1993 by Kashmiri pandit migrants and other Jammu and Kashmir residents; and what is the amount involved;

(c) how many cases of Kashmiri pandit migrants and others, separately have been settled by each insurance company at Srinagar during the years 1991, 1992 and so far in 1993;

(d) what guidelines have been issued in this regard;